



Date:	07-05-2013	Document:	F13-032 EN
Title:	National Report Slovenia FIDES (May)		
Authors:	FIDES Vice-President, Damjan Polh, MD		

FIDES' HALF YEAR REPORT Budapest, May 2013

After the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the pension legislation, practically concluded the negotiations on the new labour legislation and passed the budgets for 2013 and 2014 before the end of 2012, we believed that the economic and financial crisis in Slovenia was under control. Foreign markets also reacted favourably to the conditions in our country and the interest on yield on government bonds fell to reasonable values.

However, all this was not enough to prevent the “organisation” of various civil initiatives in the country which overflowed the squares of the capital and other cities. In the foreground, there were protests against the political elite which, over the years, stole power and wealth on account of destitute people and failed companies. The media and the opposition at the time, which used the protests to promote its own interests, further exaggerated all of this. On top of this, in its report, the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption suspected the now already former Prime Minister of possessing property of unexplained origin. All this in a short time resulted in the breakup of the right political coalition, a vote of no confidence in the government, and the formation of the new, so-called centre-left coalition. Alongside the above, all well conceptualized projects of the former Government, which had the support of Brussels, have died down. Precious months have been lost in which practically nothing was achieved. The Government in power is led by Ms Alenka Bratušek who, in the opinion of most experts and professionals, is completely inappropriate, and the responses from abroad confirm this. In a short time our country will require bridging loans whose price, however, has increased so much in the meantime that we are justifiably afraid of the worst scenario – the bankruptcy of the State and appeal for aid from Europe.

In the meantime, medical circles welcomed the new management of the Medical Chamber, which promptly began with work and cleaning up the pitiful legacy left by the previous President. In addition, the coordination of all medical organisations was consolidated and set out its projects and work. We put healthcare as a whole in the foreground, and began establishing the drawbacks and proposing solutions. We have had enough of promises from the politics that reforms are necessary, but no action is taken. Soon we will present to the public an integral view of the operation of the healthcare system, point out the mistakes and drawbacks, and propose immediate and long-term solutions.

Because of the political crisis the talks we planned with the relevant ministry on the perspective of doctors and their position in the society also died down. The FIDES union would like for a new collective agreement to be drafted which would include standards and norms for the work of



doctors. These should become the condition for implementing the remuneration of doctors based on the completed work and implementing a variable part of the salary.

Alongside this, the negotiations of the new government with the public sector unions (including us) are taking place on how to save additional resources by the end of the year to avoid the worst-case scenario, i.e. the bankruptcy of the State. Damage due to delays because of the change of the Government has already been done; the measures to restart the economy and remediate the bank system in the country are lagging behind significantly, and there are no clear guarantees for the near future on how the Government will tackle these issues. All this instils anything but a high level of confidence in professional financial circles. In such conditions, negotiations are even more difficult.

FIDES Vice-President, Damjan Polh, MD